

**For Immediate Release #1
Navajo Mountain Fire**

High winds, low humidity's, and scorching sun fanned the Navajo Mountain Fire and challenged firefighters today as they tried to contain the movement of the flames. The fire is located on the Navajo Reservation 60 miles east of Page, Arizona and next to the Utah communities of Navajo Mountain and Rainbow City.

The fire started June 10, 2006 due to a passing lightning storm. The Blue Ridge Hot Shots, Ruby Mountain Hot Shots, San Juan Hot Shots, and the Navajo Initial Attack Crew were called to respond to the incident. Due to extreme conditions, the fire grew rapidly requiring additional resources. Local fire management officials made a decision to call in a National Team for additional support. The fire was handed over to Dan Oltrogge's Type 1 Southwest Incident Management Team on June 13, 2006 at 6pm.

Leo Manheimer, President of the Navajo Mountain Chapter House addressed the incoming firefighters saying, "Past experiences and responses to adversity tells us that there are people and programs that care about human lives. We rely on Mother Nature and yet Mother Nature can abruptly destroy. We try to keep this destruction to a minimum. This says a lot about mankind no matter where the location, the ethnicity or whomever is affected: there are people out there to help."

The fire is located in mixed conifer and pine with recent high bug and drought mortality. Heavy fuels in this area continue to create intense fire behavior. Craggy cliffs and steep rocky terrain have also hampered efforts to contain the fire. Due to safety issues there is a general closure for all roads and trails on Navajo Mountain.

The fire poses a threat to the communications site on top of the mountain. Firefighters have been working hard creating fire breaks near the towers to protect equipment and begin containment.

A burn ban is in place for the Navajo Nation. This includes no open flame, no burning of trash or vegetation, and smoking in buildings or vehicles only. Propane stoves are allowed.

For more information, call the Navajo Mountain Fire Information Officers

Karen Takai: 505-235-4213

Jim Whittington: 928-530-2289

E-mail: Oltroggeswimt@yahoo.com

Cell coverage is intermittent on the fire and it may take us 1-3 hours to return calls.

Today's Fire Facts

Acreage: 1,500 Contained: 0% Total Personnel: 135
Resources: 3 Hot Shots Crews, 2 Type II Crews, 5 Helicopters

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